

REMARKS

This is Intended as a Supplemental Response to the Office Action dated June 26, 2003. Claims 1-24 and 35-63 remain pending after entry of this response. Claims 60-63 have been added. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

Applicant's representatives express appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Dougherty during a telephone conference on December 23, 2003.

During the conference, the Examiner commented that the scope of the claims may include an apparatus having more than "a single" structure. Applicant filed this Supplemental Response to address the Examiner's comments. Particularly, independent claims 1, 35, 50, and 58 have been amended to recite "at most one" structure. Similarly, new claim 63 recites "only one" structure. Applicant believes these claims are patentable over the prior art, specifically, *Dinsdale*, which discloses using two structures to retain a tong. Additionally, independent claim 38 has been amended to recite "an extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom, wherein the center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable boom." New claim 62 also recites a "center of mass of the tong is alignable with an axis of the extendable boom." Support for the amendment to claim 38 may be found at least in Figure 4. Applicant also believes claims 38 and 62 are patentable over prior art. Therefore, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-15, 18-28, and 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Dinsdale*, U.S. Patent No. 4,843,945. The Examiner states *Dinsdale* discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 25, and 35, including a cantilever structure attached to a tong, a piston and cylinder assembly, a mounting assembly, and the tong movably attached.

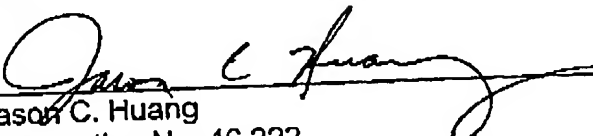
Dinsdale discloses an apparatus for making and breaking threaded well pipe connections. The apparatus includes a stationary support mountable on a rig floor and positioning arms mounted on the stationary support. The positioning arms selectively support and position a movable frame which carries power tongs for clamping pipes. As seen in the top views of the Figures 4 and 6, a pair of positioning arms (14, 15) is used to position the power tongs. *Dinsdale* does not disclose using at most one boom-like structure for positioning a tong. Further, *Dinsdale* discloses pivoting the arms about a common axis, in another word, in one plane, as shown in Figures 1, 3, and 5. *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest "at most one" structure, as recited in claims 1, 35, 50, and 58. Additionally, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus comprising an extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom, wherein the center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable boom, as recited in claim 38. Further, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest an extendable boom and a tong mountable at one end of the boom, wherein a center of mass of the tong is alignable with a longitudinal center line of the boom when the tong is mounted on the boom, as recited in new claim 62. Further still, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest "only one" extendable beam structure, as recited in new claim 63. Therefore, Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same.

Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dinsdale* alone.

Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1, and claims 29 and 30 depend from claim 30. As discussed above, Applicant believes claims 1 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant also believes these claims are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, the reference cited by the Examiner, does not teach, show, or suggest the apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-24 and 35-63 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the same be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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